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Attorney Docket No. 103917003001

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Ignatious et al.

: EXAMINER: Todd Ware

: ART UNIT: 1615

APPLICATION NO.: 09/171,740

FILED: April 20, 1999

FOR: SUSTAINED RELEASE IONIC  
CONJUGATE

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8(a) that this  
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Alan F. Feeney

AUG 26 2002

RECEIVED

Sir:

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF IMPROPER REQUEST  
FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)

In response to the Communication mailed July 18, 2002  
(hereinafter the "Notice"), the Applicants respectfully request  
reconsideration of the rejection of the request for continued  
examination filed on July 1, 2002.

**REMARKS**

A Final Office Action rejecting all pending claims of the  
above application was mailed on February 11, 2002. On July 1,  
2002, the Applicants filed a Request for Continued Examination  
(RCE) under 37 C.F.R. 1.114 Transmittal together with a Petition  
for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a Transmittal  
Letter and Fee Authorization and a 3<sup>rd</sup> Supplemental Information  
Disclosure Statement and Authorization to Charge Deposit Account  
with attached form PTO-1449. A copy of Petitioner's July 1<sup>st</sup>  
submission is attached.

The Patent and Trademark Office received said documents on  
July 8, 2002, as evidenced by Applicants' receipt of an  
acknowledgement postcard on which the Patent and Trademark